New Delhi during December 2003, which was followed by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the three countries. Various Technical and financial issues including the sharing of the projects costs were discussed during these meetings. However, there has been no further progress in the matter of implementation of the project.

Inaccurate prediction by Meteorological Department

1764. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Meteorological Departments of India has failed to accurately predict the on-set of monsoon this year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of factors which are taken into consideration by the Meteorological Departments while predicting rainfall; and

(d) whether the Departments has state of-the-art technology and machinery for predicting rainfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. The onset of monsoon was correctly forecast with a lead period of 3 days.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) gives forecast on the seasonal rainfall (June-September) over the country making use of Statistical models incorporating 8 to 10 regional and global parameters. IMD has good scientific skill in Long Range Seasonal Forecasting which is supported with continuous scientific research by dedicated team of scientists.

(d) IMD has been issuing Long Range Forecast for South-West Monsoon rainfall since 1886. Therefore, IMD has very good experience and tradition in development of Long Range Forecast models. IMD's Long Range Forecast models have a better skill when compared to those developed by the other developed countries. Technology and equipment are continuously upgraded by the Department.